

Developing a State of Minds

RESOLUTION

revising

THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

December 8, 2000

WHEREAS, Section 10a-89 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System to develop the Mission Statement of the University System, and

WHEREAS, The current Mission Statement of the Connecticut State University System was adopted by the Board of Trustees in its Resolution No. 99-1 on February 5, 1999, and revised by Resolution No. 2000-80 on October 5, 2000, in response to an indication from the Department of Higher Education that mission statements for the CSU System should more clearly articulate that offering doctoral degrees is part of the CSU System's mission, if the CSU universities intend to seek the authority to offer Ed.D. degrees, and

WHEREAS, The Department of Higher Education has indicated that the revised mission statement for the CSU System was construed too broadly in the authority it requested to offer "applied doctoral degrees consistent with its historical missions of teacher education and career advancement," and

WHEREAS, A proposal for an Ed.D. program at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) was approved in BR 2000-70 on July 14, 2000 and a similar proposal from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) was approved in BR 2000-92 on November 2, 2000 and another is expected from Western Connecticut State University in Spring 2001, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System hereby repeals Board Resolution No. 2000-70, and adopts the attached revised Mission Statement for the Connecticut State University System, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Section 10a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System is directed to submit the revised Mission Statement of the Connecticut State University System to the Board of Governors for Higher Education for its review and appropriate action.

A Certified True Copy:

Signature of Lawrence D. McHugh, Chairman

Lawrence D. McHugh, Chairman

## The Mission of the Connecticut State University System

The four comprehensive universities of the CSU System - Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University - are Connecticut's universities of choice for students of all ages, backgrounds, races and ethnicities. CSU provides affordable and high quality, active learning opportunities, which are geographically and technologically accessible. A CSU education leads to baccalaureate, graduate and professional degrees *consistent with CSU's historical missions of teacher education and career advancement, including applied doctoral degree programs in education*. CSU graduates think critically, acquire enduring problem solving skills and meet outcome standards, which embody the competencies necessary for success in the workplace and in life.

### Fulfilling the Mission

CSU fulfills this mission through the focused missions of its universities.

#### **Central Connecticut State University**

- is Connecticut's premier learner centered public university with teaching as its focus
- applies knowledge to better the human condition
- provides access and quality for students to reach their full potential

#### **Eastern Connecticut State University**

- is Connecticut's public liberal arts university
- provides an intellectual ambiance which develops analytic thinkers, innovative problem solvers and creative learners

#### **Southern Connecticut State University**

- is a preeminent metropolitan university
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#### **Western Connecticut State University**

- aspires to be the state's public university of choice for programs of excellence in the liberal arts and the professions
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*Creative learning at each university transforms Connecticut into a state of minds.*

**ITEM**

Revision to Mission Statement for the Connecticut State University System

**BACKGROUND**

The statutes charge the Board of Trustees, in part, to develop the mission statement for the Connecticut State University System (CGS Sect. 10a-89). The Board adopted a mission statement in 1984 and revised it in 1986, 1992 and 1997.

As part of the strategic planning by the system in 1996, each of the CSU universities developed its own individual mission statement defining the universities by their distinguishing characteristics.

The CSU System mission statement was approved by the Board in 1997 and was revised in February 1999 in the following manner:

- The phrase "technologically accessible" was added to emphasize that courses offered by CSU are made available to learners in a variety of ways including the Internet and other new technologies.
- The CSU system mission was clarified by stating that it is realized through the "focused mission of its universities" and a summary of these missions was incorporated as part of the system mission statement.

The revised System and University mission statements were submitted to the Board of Governors for Higher Education in February 1999.

In July 2000, the Board approved a proposal put forth by Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) to offer a doctorate in education (Ed.D.). The Board approved a similar proposal from Southern Connecticut State University in its November 2000 meeting and expects a proposal for an Ed.D. from Western Connecticut State University in the future. The Board's action reflected its view that the Ed.D. is a logical extension of CSU's historical focus on teacher preparation.

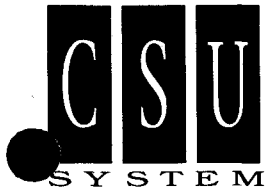
Following the Board's approval, CCSU submitted its Ed.D. proposal to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). However, the DHE indicated that the mission statements submitted in 1999 were not sufficiently specific in articulating that the granting of doctoral degrees is part of the mission of the CSU universities. The Board approved a revision to the System Mission statement in its October 2000 authorizing the offering of applied doctoral degrees "*consistent with its (CSU) historical missions of teacher education and career advancement,*" but this was returned by DHE as being too broad. Mission revisions by CCSU and SCSU were approved by the Board in its November 2000 meeting. These have not been submitted pending further revision of the System mission.

**ANALYSIS**

Following further consultation with the universities and staff consideration, the System mission statement has been revised again with additional language which creates the following operative phrase: A CSU education leads to baccalaureate, graduate and professional degrees *consistent with CSU's historical missions of teacher education and career advancement, including applied doctoral degree programs in education.* Although CCSU and SCSU mission revisions are broader, this is not expected to be problematic in view of the limiting nature of the System statement. Approval by the Board of Governors of the revised System mission and revisions from CCSU and SCSU will provide clear authority for the granting of Ed.D. degrees within the CSU System by its universities, leaving only the statutory prohibition to be changed.

**CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION**

Approve the revised Connecticut State University System Mission Statement.



Connecticut State University System

*Developing a State of Minds*



December 11, 2000

Valerie Lewis, Commissioner  
Department of Higher Education  
61 Woodland Street  
Hartford, CT 06105-2326

Dear Commissioner Lewis:

As you will recall, the CSU System submitted revised mission statements for the System and the four CSU Universities in early 1999 and Role and Scope statements in December 1999. In late Summer 2000, you indicated that the Department of Higher Education could not consider a request for licensure and accreditation for a Doctorate in Education (Ed.D) by Central Connecticut State University, approved by the CSU Board of Trustees in its July 2000 meeting, unless the mission statements for the CSU System and its universities were revised to more clearly support the offering of applied doctoral degrees.

After consultation and deliberation, a Resolution revising the CSU System mission statement was developed and brought to the Thursday, October 5, 1000 meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees. The Resolution passed unanimously and subsequent discussion reaffirmed the Board's enthusiastic support of CCSU's request for approval for its Ed.D as well as a similar request by SCSU approved by the Board during the same meeting. The Resolution and the revised mission statement were submitted to you on October 7, 2000.

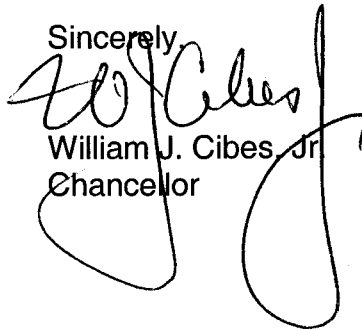
In its November 2, 2000 meeting the CSU Board approved mission revisions for CCSU and SCSU but these have not been submitted in view of further conversation with you in which you expressed the opinion that the October revision in the System Mission was overly broad in the doctoral authority requested.

On Friday, December 8, 2000, the CSU Board approved a revision in the System Mission which is narrower than the October revision. The Resolution and Mission Statement are attached. You should know that the Board's Academic Affairs Committee is on record that it will entertain no further narrowing of doctoral authority in the System Mission and that the full Board has endorsed the Committee's position.

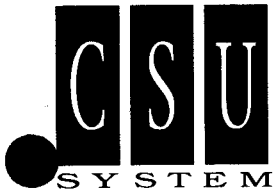
As you know, we will be seeking statutory revisions in the 2001 session of the General Assembly to rescind or amend the current exclusivity for the offering of doctoral degrees granted to the University of Connecticut in Section 10a-149 of the Connecticut general statutes. We have the unanimous backing of the CSU Board and the support of many other groups in this endeavor.

I hope we will have your personal support and the backing of the Department and the Board of Governors in our attempt to better serve the educational needs of the K-12 sector in the State. In any case, please accept my appreciation for your advice on this vital matter. I hope that DHE will begin its deliberation on CSU's mission revision at the earliest time possible. In my judgment, the attached revision and the revisions we will submit from the CSU Universities, extend the historical mission of CSU in a highly appropriate way and illustrate clearly the increasingly significant position occupied by the Universities of the CSU System in the higher education community in Connecticut

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. J. Cibes, Jr.", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the typed name and title.

William J. Cibes, Jr.  
Chancellor



Connecticut State University System

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BR#2000-99



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Lawrence D. McHugh, Chairman

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